(d) The total quantity of sugar released for the purpose of consumption in the country during October, 2005 was 16.00 lakh M.Ts. and it is presumed that in month of October, 2006, the level of consumption would be more or less the same.

Price of sugar

†2619. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been assessed that ex-factory price of sugar will be Rs. 17.50 to Rs. 18.50 per kg. in 2006-07 in the country and its sale price for the common people will be around Rs.21.00 per kg.;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it has also been assessed that the production of sugar in 2006-07 would be much higher in comparison to that in 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the selling price of the sugar to the consumers would be less in comparison to that in the last year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) It is too early to predict the level of sugar production for the next sugar season 2006-07 and/or its likely impact on the open market prices of sugar.

Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy

2620. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/draft for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The Department of Consumer Affairs is administering the "Consumer Protection Act, 1986" which is an instrument for promoting and protecting the rights of the consumers. Consequent upon the decision taken in the 50th National Development Council Meeting held on 21.12.2002, a "National Action Plan for Consumer Awareness and Redressal and Enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986" has been prepared. The Action Plan covers mainly (i) undertaking consumer awareness programmes, (ii) strengthening of consumer grievance redressal machinery and (iii) strengthening of Standards Laboratories of Weights & Measures.

The Public Distribution System administered by Department of Food & Public Distribution is being implemented in the country for distribution of foodgrains and kerosene oil to the ration card holders through a network of 4.81 lakhs Fair Price Shops, at different rates of subsidy to the 'Above Poverty Line', 'Below Poverty Line' and 'Antyodaya Anna Yojna Households'. At present, no proposal/draft on Public Distribution Policy is under consideration.

Corruption in FCI depots in Punjab

2621. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevailing in various depots of Foods Corporation of India in Punjab;

(b) the complaints received in this regard during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the complaints received against the employees of various depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in